

## Message Text

SECRET

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41

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W  
----- 046914

O 111657Z APR 74  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1752

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 05926

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, WB, GW, US, UK, FR, UR  
SUBJECT: ALLIED REPLY TO USSR ON BUNDESTAG PRESIDIUM  
MEETING IN BERLIN

REF: STATE 69538

1. WHEN US REP INFORMED OTHER BONN GROUP REPS OF  
DEPARTMENTS INSTRUCTIONS IN REFTEL, OTHERS SAID THEY  
SAW NO POINT IN FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT OF  
THE PRESIDIUM MEETING AT THIS JUNCTURE. ALL EXPRESSED  
DISMAY AT SEEMING IMPASSE WE HAVE REACHED IN BONN GROUP.  
AS A RESULT, BONN GROUP MEETING SCHEDULED APRIL 10 TO  
DISCUSS MATTER WAS CANCELLED. FRG FONOFF AND FRENCH  
EMBASSY SUBSEQUENTLY EXPRESSED TO US SEPARATELY THEIR  
IRRITATION OVER THE INABILITY OF THE US AND UK SIDES  
TO REACH A COMPROMISE FORMULATION ON AN ALLIED REPLY  
TO THE USSR ON THE BUNDESTAG PRESIDIUM MEETING IN  
BERLIN. FRG CHANCELLERY IS PARTICULARLY EXERCIZED OVER  
ALLIED DILATORIENESS IN RESPONDING TO SOVIETS, NOTING  
THAT ORIGINAL USSR STATEMENT WAS MADE OVER THREE  
MONTHS AGO. (COMMENT. ADMONITION IN REFTEL AGAINST  
EMBASSY'S READINESS TO ACCEPT A POSITION "FOR THE SAKE  
OF SPEEDY COMPROMISE" IS PRESUMABLY TONGUE IN CHEEK,  
GIVEN THE PASSAGE OF SO MUCH TIME. END  
COMMENT.)

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2. FOLLOWING URGING FROM US REP, UK AND FRENCH REPS

AGREED RELUCTANTLY TO RESUME DISCUSSION APRIL 11 TO SEE IF SOME COMPROMISE TEXT COULD BE WORKED OUT THAT WOULD LEAVE US AND UK POSITIONS INTACT YET STILL PERMIT THE ALLIES TO ANSWER THE SOVIETS. THE FOLLOWING TEXT IS THE RESULT OF EXTENDED NEGOTIATION AND SEEMS TO US TO GO A GOOD WAY TOWARD MEETING OUR POSITION. BEGIN TEXT: THE BRITISH/FRENCH/US AUTHORITIES DO NOT ACCEPT, INTER ALIA, THE IMPLICATION IN YOUR STATEMENT THAT BECAUSE MEETINGS OF THE PRESIDIUM AND COUNCIL OF ELDERS IN THE WSB ARE NOT SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR IN THE QA OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1971, THESE BODIES ARE CONSEQUENTLY EXCLUDED FROM HOLDING MEETINGS THERE. THE THREE POWERS ARE CONSCIOUS OF THEIR RESPONSIBILITY TO ENSURE THAT NO ACTS OCCUR IN THE WSB WHICH WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE QA OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1971. IN THIS CONNECTION THEY WOULD DRAW ATTENTION TO THE STATEMENT MADE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE THREE POWERS IN ANNEX II TO THE QA AND TO THE CLARIFICATIONS AND INTERPRETATIONS CONTAINED IN THE ASSOCIATED LETTER DATED SEPTEMBER 3, 1971 FROM THE AMBASSADORS OF THE THREE POWERS TO THE CHANCELLOR OF THE FRG WHICH HAD BEEN OFFICIALLY COMMUNICATED TO THE AMBASSADOR OF THE SOVIET UNION PRIOR TO SIGNATURE OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. END TEXT.

3. THIS NEW DRAFT, WHICH IS ONE WE BELIEVE THE FRG WILL ACCEPT, PROTECTS THE US POSITION IN ALL IMPORTANT ASPECTS, IN OUR VIEW: (A) THERE IS NO IMPRESSION LEFT

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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O 111657Z APR 74  
FM AMEMBASSY BONN  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1753

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 05926

EXDIS

THAT THE ACTION OF THE THREE ALLIES CAUSED NO MEETINGS TO TAKE PLACE; (B) THERE IS NO DEFINITION OF THE NATURE OF THE PRESIDIUM OR COUNCIL OF ELDERS; AND (C) IT REBUTS THE SOVIET CONTENTION THAT WHAT IS NOT SPECIFICALLY PROVIDED FOR IS NOT PERMISSIBLE.

4. SEEN FROM HERE, THE ALLIES DO NEED TO ANSWER THE SOVIETS. NOT TO DO SO WOULD BE TO CONCEDE THE VALIDITY OF THE LATTER'S JANUARY STATEMENT. MOREOVER, WE CANNOT KEEP TELLING RENGER TO HOLD OFF MEETINGS IN BERLIN BECAUSE THE ALLIES HAVE NOT ANSWERED THE SOVIET STATEMENT. AT SOME POINT, WE WILL HAVE TO MAKE OUR POSITION CLEAR. AND, BASICALLY, IT SEEMS TO US THAT WE WILL PROBABLY END UP TAKING A LINE ANALOGOUS TO THAT WHICH THE GERMANS SUGGESTED THE SECRETARY TAKE ON FEDERAL PRESENCE GENERALLY WITH GROMYKO IN MOSCOW, NAMELY, THAT THE MEETINGS ARE LEGALLY PERMISSIBLE BUT THE ALLIES WOULD JUDGE EACH CASE ON THE BASIS OF ITS POLITICAL OPPORTUNENESS. A FURTHER PERTINENT FACT IS THAT THERE HAVE BEEN EXCHANGES OF VIEWS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND GROMYKO IN LATE MARCH WHICH PRESERVE OUR LEGAL POSITION ON FEDERAL ACTIVITIES IN BERLIN (AND THE PRESIDIUM MEETING WOULD FALL UNDER THAT RUBRIC) YET TAKE SOME ACCOUNT OF SOVIET CONCERNS ABOUT AN EXPANDED PRESENCE.

5. IN CONCLUSION, WE MAY NOTE THAT THIS TRIPARTITE EFFORT PROBABLY REPRESENTS CLOSE TO LAST POSSIBILITY

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OF RESOLVING A MATTER THAT HAS BECOME VEXING IN TERMS OF INTRA-ALLIED RELATIONSHIPS IN THE BONN GROUP. IF WE FAIL TO REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS ISSUE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT WE ARE SIMPLY CREATING DIFFICULTIES WHICH WILL SOON BEGIN TO HAMPER THE EFFECTIVE OPERATION OF THE BONN GROUP.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. DEPARTMENT APPROVAL OF TEXT IN PARA 2 ABOVE.

HILLENBRAND

SECRET

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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